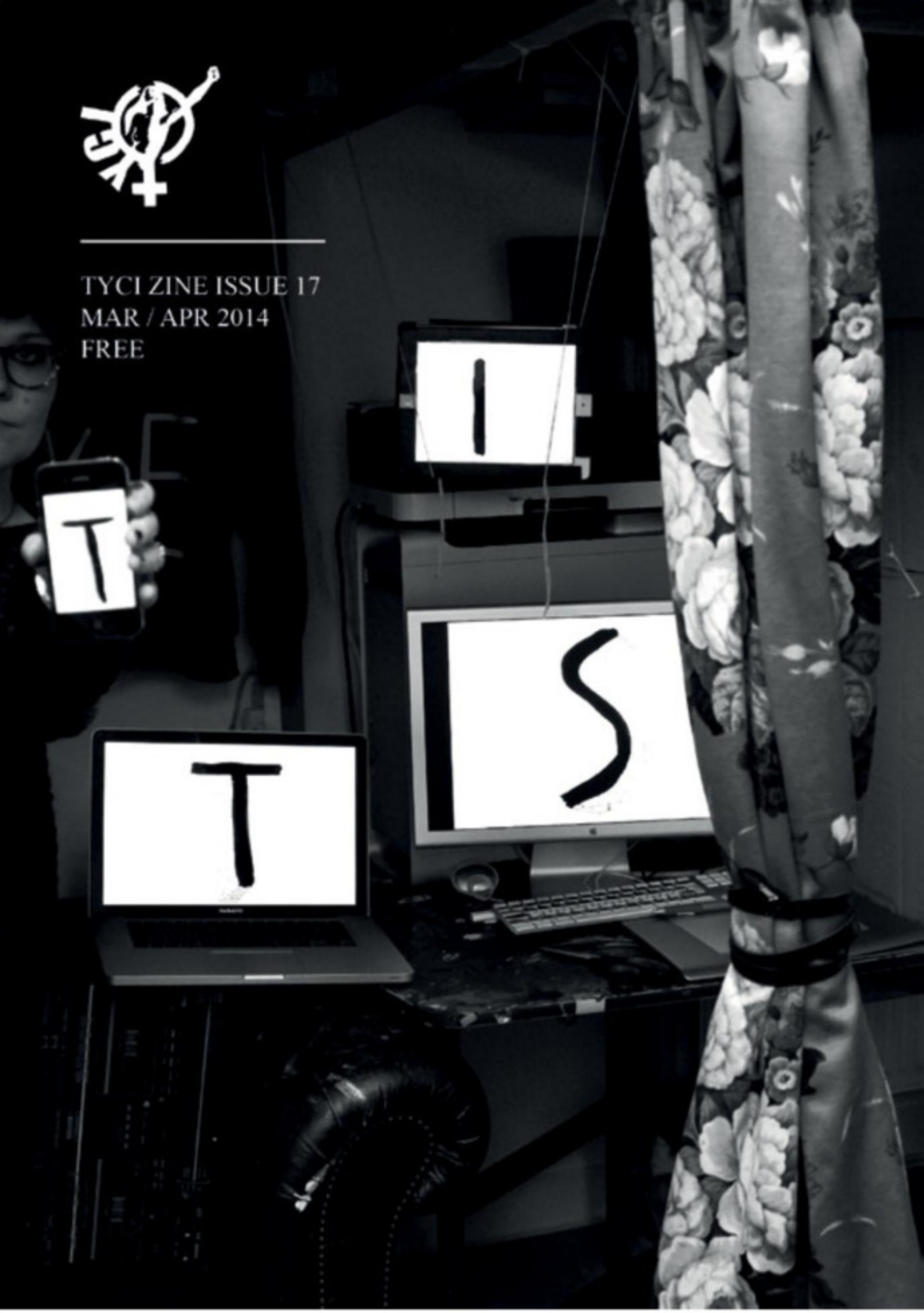

TYCI ZINE ISSUE 17
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FREE

INTERVIEW: TOM TOM MAGAZINE

Lauren Mayberry interviews Mindy Abovitz, publisher / editor-in-chief of a publication dedicated to female percussionists around the world.

FOR TYCI READERS WHO HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT YET, WHAT IS TOM TOM MAGAZINE?
Tom Tom Magazine is the only magazine in the world dedicated to covering female drummers. We are a print magazine, a website, social media and have showcases around the world.

TELL US HOW IT ALL GOT STARTED.
I started Tom Tom as a blog in late 2009 because I wanted to change the Google search results (and image search results) for the keywords: Girl Drummer, Female Drummer and Woman Drummer. I wanted to search those words and retrieve relevant respectful information about woman drummers. At that point in time, I had been drumming for eight years and had been in six bands and volunteered as a drum instructor at Rock Camp for Girls and was fed up with the existing media around woman drummers.

WHAT KIND OF THINGS CAN WE FIND ON THE SITE?
You can find interviews with female drummers, beat makers, percussionists and producers from around the world. We have Tom Tom TV with video interviews and city guides for drummers. We have tech pieces, tour

diaries, a store where you can subscribe to the mag and buy Tom Tom swag and you can also peruse our advertisers who all support and invest in woman drummers. This is a huge part of the industry that gets overlooked. Where the companies invest and who they invest in dictates the market.

WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A DRUM MAGAZINE SPECIFICALLY AIMED AT WOMEN?

I believe it is the only way to show the industry that we exist and to provide role models for future drummers. There are many drum magazines in the US and around the world and nearly all of them completely ignore women and girl drummers. They consider us to be such a small fraction of the industry that they are justified in ignoring us. My thinking is, if we highlight the ones we have, consistently and with respect, we can make more.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT THE HIT LIKE A GIRL COMPETITION.

Hit Like a Girl is a collaboration between Tom Tom Magazine, TRX Cymbals and DRUM! Magazine. It was started as another way to reach girls worldwide and to show the industry who we are. It is the only contest for female drummers and it is the only online drumming contest. The contest opened 24 January this year and all you need to do to win is upload a video of yourself playing. We have two winner categories - under 18 and over 18 - and winners and semi-finalists are slated to win 25,000 worth of drum prizes from major and minor drum companies. Find out more at hitlikeagirlcontest.com.

WHAT IS THE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE TO FEMALE DRUMMERS, OR FEMALE MUSICIANS IN GENERAL?

I would tell them to call themselves a musician as soon as possible and with as much confidence as they can muster. "I am a drummer" as soon as they sit at the kit or buy their first drum set. Confidence tends to be a huge issue when getting started.

WHAT ARE TOM TOM'S UPCOMING PLANS FOR 2014?

SO MUCH! More of the same great magazine, a budding and growing online store where we feature drums and accessories from companies that believe in women drummers, museum takeovers and some secret stuff too...

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE TOMTOMMAG.COM.

TOM TOM MAGAZINE

A MAGAZINE ABOUT FEMALE DRUMMERS

BARBARA KRUGER SAYS NO

Sophie Kromholz writes about the inimitable artist and the continued relevance of her groundbreaking work.

We live in a visual world. As an art historian, I am particularly aware of this, as my profession trades in images and ideas and the intricate dance between the two. There is a weight and responsibility tied to the upward estimate of 3,000 commercial images we are exposed to every day. Images are carefully curated loaded bombs. They are neither haphazard nor innocent, and so we are responsible for understanding the layered stories they tell and how we participate in them.

Artist Barbara Kruger's work alludes to the power of the visual and the stories we tell with in its application. For those unfamiliar, Kruger is a conceptual artist, designer, and writer. Some of her most prolific work is developed from photograph-based images in combination with imposed text which together challenge and question the popular culture visualizations of power, greed, racism, consumerism, sexism, and gender roles, through juxtaposing and deconstructing the overt slogans and images. Her work has been displayed on a variety of platforms ranging from galleries to public billboards.

Kruger does not hide behind her images, or notions of art, but rather exposes the

explosive and inflammatory potential of images to bring our attention to the twisted double standards and injustice around us. Her work has led a feminist reckoning against sexualization and the objectification of women to sell us products and ideas. Barbara Kruger says 'NO!' to misguided commercialized and institutionalized Western patriarchal values by exposing their absurdity in the aesthetically pleasing graphic formula of Futura Bold typeface framed in red text bars on black-and-white photographic images.

LADYSAY

IS A BRAND NEW MONTHLY FEATURE ON THE TYCI WEBSITE. EACH MONTH, WE ASK FOR YOUR OPINIONS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS, THE TRICK BEING THAT IT'S ALL DONE BY

VIDEO.

FIRST, WE POST A CALL-OUT VIDEO DETAILING THE THEME WE'LL BE DISCUSSING THAT MONTH - WITH OUR FIRST TOPIC BEING THE WINTER OLYMPICS IN SOCHI 2014, COVERING EVERYTHING FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF A WOMEN'S SKI JUMP CATEGORY TO HOW THE COSSACK GUARDS REACTED TO PUSSY RIOT'S PROTEST AT THE EVENTS. WE THEN ASK YOU TO SUBMIT YOUR OWN 1 – 2 MINUTE VIDEO RESPONSES, AND WE EDIT THEM ALL TOGETHER INTO ONE BIG SET OF VIDEO-THOUGHTS.

Your video can be filmed in any way you like and you just need to send it to us at contact.tyci@gmail.com with your name, age and location.

GET VLOGGING! IT'S TIME TO JOIN IN ON THE CONVERSATION.

the only
fists we
raise are
in protest
tyci.org.uk

INTERVIEW: GLASGOW PARKOUR GIRLS

Lauren Mayberry talks to Kel Glaister and Fiona Boyd of the Glasgow organisation to shed some light on what parkour actually is…

WHO ARE GLASGOW PARKOUR GIRLS?

Kel Glaister: We're a group of women who train parkour in Glasgow. We've had to get constituted and all official for various reasons, but really it's as simple as that. We really love training together, and we're also really passionate about supporting newcomers, as women in parkour are still a minority, and we want to change that.

FOR TYCI READERS WHO AREN'T FAMILIAR WITH PARKOUR, WHAT IS IT?

Kel: Parkour is the discipline of moving freely through space. It's about getting over, across and through obstacles in the environment efficiently, and it involves running, climbing, jumping, vaulting, balancing. It's also about gaining strength and stamina, developing focus, problem-solving in situ, overcoming fears and doubts, and having a laugh with friends.

WHEN DID THE GROUP FORM AND HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED?

Kel: It really just started as a group to organise training sessions, mostly of women who went along to the Glasgow Parkour Coaching classes, and wanted to train together outside of that (as well as go out dancing!). Since then, it we started a blog (www.glasgowparkourgirls.wordpress.com) and we've been working to attract more women to the discipline, cause it can appear from

the outside to be filled only with boys or be daunting or unwelcoming and that's just not true.

I got involved when I moved to Glasgow for the first time, (I'm from Melbourne originally). I started coming along to classes and jams, and they haven't been able to get rid of me since!

It's been really important for me to encourage other women to try parkour, because it's been such a positive force in my life. Girls are often raised to be scared of things, to be scared of urban spaces especially at night, as well as to be less comfortable with our own capabilities. For me, parkour is a way to become a stronger person, to recognised my strengths, both physical and mental. It's also a means to stake a claim to public space as well, to interrupt the defined and policed uses of public space and make it our own.

Fiona Boyd: If there hadn't been an option of women only training, I probably wouldn't have started. I didn't do any sport before then, so I was intimidated of training alongside the kind of men I'd seen in media representations of parkour - really big, strong guys with huge jumps - I thought they might laugh at me. Now I like training with the boys too (who turns out are absolutely lovely), but I got really involved with Glasgow Parkour Girls because I know how important it can be to have a comfortable environment to get you started.

IT LOOKS LIKE PARKOUR TAKES A LOT OF PHYSICAL STAMINA - HOW DO YOU GUYS STAY FIT?

WHAT DOES YOUR PRACTICE REGIME INVOLVE?

Kel: I go out training several times a week for a few hours (that includes the classes that I go to, and I'm currently undertaking some training to become a coach.) That involves a lot of work on strength and conditioning, which can be daunting at first, but it is really fun! And the focus is on functional movements, not isolated ones like in a gym. So all the strength work is useful, and works muscles in combination. I also like to run, and to lift heavy things, and I do some meditation, which I consider to be part of my training. Parkour training is really varied: you need strength, endurance, power, concentration, flexibility, balance. There's always something to work on. That keeps it fun!

Fiona: I usually go to classes once or twice a week. Outside of that, I train a couple of times a week - I'm looking forward for the good weather so I can go out more. I don't really have a training regime I follow, sometimes I go out with a plan of what I'm going to do, whether it's to drill something a number of times, or work on something I'm struggling with, other times I just go out and play and do whatever takes my fancy. On top of parkour training, I also go to the gym and weight lift. I like feeling strong and it's useful for progressing in parkour too.

THIS IS AN EXCERPT. FOR THE FULL ARTICLE, VISIT TYCI.ORG.UK. FOR MORE ON GLASGOW PARKOUR GIRLS, HEAD TO FACEBOOK.COM/GLASGOWPARKOURGIRLS OR EMAIL GLASGOWPARKOURGIRLS@GMAIL.COM.

Faye Tudor writes for TYCI about her experience with the awareness raising sports campaign, and the subtle sexism in its advertising...

A few weeks ago, I came across the Triathlon Pink series and learned that this event would be coming to the UK this year, with a total of five races to be held throughout June, July and August… And what's got me is the branding and marketing of the event which is, as you may have guessed, an all-female triathlon.

The event is connected to raising money for breast cancer charities and, in the UK, the chosen charity is Breakthrough Breast Cancer. This seemingly means that everything is pink. On the one hand, you could say that this is because the charity has pink in its logo. And it's true, it does. But it's not the entire logo. If you have a look at the Breakthrough Cancer website, you'll find that it has accents of pink, rather than the whole lot being pink. Why even call it Triathlon Pink?! Just so women would know it's for them? So men know to steer clear?

As it happens, I don't like pink. It doesn't suit me and I hated that as a child it appeared to be obligatory for me to wear it. Girls wear pink. They like pink, don't they? It's no different when you're an adult, sadly – if you pop along to the

sports shop to get some new running gear, you'll find that much of the clothing is pink, lilac or baby blue. Even the black tops and running tights have big pops of shocking pink down the sides. As it happens, I would quite like some nice pillar box red running shoes, or perhaps an emerald green sports top - those would actually work with my hair. Having said that, given that my hair is always pushed back in a thick hairband, whether or not I clash with my exercise kit isn't my primary concern. It would just be nice to have a range of products that come in colours beyond the usual "women's palette".

This is just the tip of the iceberg. When I looked a little further into the Triathlon Pink series, I was pretty disappointed with what I found. It was horribly stereotypical and so patronising. I browsed a range of different sites which were either promoting or simply discussing the Triathlon Pink series. The chosen header picture is often the same - three women in pink vests with pink fluffy ears / horns atop their matching caps. Really?! Is that the image that women need to be drawn into taking part in a triathlon? Another website says that the series sets out to change the way that women view triathlon (not sure why that's needed but we'll leave that to one side), and promises that the events will be "providing a fun girl's day out with feel-good fitness". A what now?! A 'fun girls day out'?? WHAT? It's a triathlon! If I want a fun day out with my girl friends, we go for a walk, we sit about in a coffee shop or restaurant and have a natter over some nice food, or we go to the pub for some drinks. We don't do a triathlon and neither do we need to look at a triathlon as a girl's day out in order to want to participate in it. Come on! Stop patronising us.

My reasons for signing up to my first triathlon are not related to anything remotely 'girly'… A triathlon is a huge personal challenge and while I hope to have fun while I'm at it, my principal goals are self-improvement and driving myself to get the most out of my body. I don't need balloons, fluffy ears or pink t-shirts to do this and I don't see why anyone promoting women-only events think that this is what women either want or need. Please, if you are going to market a women-only event, make it about the event, make it about the swimming, the running and the cycling. Make it about the achievement and the health benefits.

THIS IS AN EXCERPT. FOR THE FULL ARTICLE, VISIT TYCI.ORG.UK. YOU CAN FOLLOW FAYE'S TRIATHLON PROGRESS AT COULDTRIHARDER.COM. FOR MORE OF FAYE'S WRITING, HEAD TO REMNANTOFMYTHOUGHTS.WORDPRESS.COM.

TYCI LIVE

OUR APRIL EVENT SEES IRISH 'PARTY POP' OUTFIT **WONDER VILLAINS** PLAYING LIVE WITH A DJ SET FROM **SUBCITY'S NATIVES ARE RESTLESS (AKA RAFLA FROM HOT CLUB)**.

SATURDAY 19 APRIL
11PM TILL 3AM
BLOC, 117 BATH STREET, GLASGOW
FREE BEFORE MIDNIGHT; 2 POUNDS AFTER

FREE ALL NIGHT IF YOU WRITE TYCI ON YOUR KNUCKLES

PROCEEDS FROM THIS MONTH'S RAFFLE WILL GO TO **END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.**

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The latest episode of the TYCI podcast is online now and can be found at soundcloud.com/tyciblog. Our next Subcity show will be Thursday 27 March, 5 - 7pm. Tune in at subcity.org/shows/tyci.

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TYCI is a collective run by women.

We have a website where we write about things which affect us and put together features on art, theatre, music, film, politics, current affairs and most things in between. We also talk about similar stuff on our monthly podcasts and radio show on Subcity.

This zine is a collection of some of the content from our site and is distributed in conjunction with our monthly live events.

If you would like to get involved, reply to any of our articles or just generally say hi, hit us up on contact.tyci@gmail.com or visit tyci.org.uk.

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Zine cover by Sarah J. Stanley (sarahjstanley.com) ///
Everything else by Cecilia Stamp (ceciliastamp.co.uk)